

**LAUREL RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**MINUTES NO. 263**  
**May 31, 2023**

<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>																							
Board Chair Michael Wenger convened a regular meeting of the Laurel Ridge Community College Board at 12:06 p.m., Wednesday, May 31, 2023, at the Laurel Ridge Luray-Page County Center.																							
<b>Members Present</b>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Kimberly P. Blosser</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Laurel Ridge Community College</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Renard J. Carlos</td> <td>Fauquier County</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Edwin C. Daley</td> <td>Warren County</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Krista G. Farris</td> <td>Winchester City</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Benjamin C. Freakley</td> <td>Shenandoah County</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brad A. Hodgson</td> <td>City of Winchester</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Michael A. Lake</td> <td>Frederick County</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brian K. Sours</td> <td>Page County</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maryam Tabatabai</td> <td>Clarke County</td> </tr> <tr> <td>James S. Wells</td> <td>Warren County</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Michael S Wenger</td> <td>Rappahannock County</td> </tr> </table>	Kimberly P. Blosser	Laurel Ridge Community College	Renard J. Carlos	Fauquier County	Edwin C. Daley	Warren County	Krista G. Farris	Winchester City	Benjamin C. Freakley	Shenandoah County	Brad A. Hodgson	City of Winchester	Michael A. Lake	Frederick County	Brian K. Sours	Page County	Maryam Tabatabai	Clarke County	James S. Wells	Warren County	Michael S Wenger	Rappahannock County
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<b>Members Attending Virtually</b>	<p>No members attending virtually.</p> <p><i>Members attending virtually have received prior approval from the College Board chair in accordance with Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.2 and the Laurel Ridge Community College Board Policy 60003.</i></p>																						
<b>Members Absent</b>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Kimberly M. Jenkins</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Fauquier County</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paul D. Johnson</td> <td>Page County</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew C. Keller</td> <td>Shenandoah County</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brandon H. Monk</td> <td>Frederick County</td> </tr> </table>	Kimberly M. Jenkins	Fauquier County	Paul D. Johnson	Page County	Andrew C. Keller	Shenandoah County	Brandon H. Monk	Frederick County														
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<b>Others Present</b>	<p>Jeanian Clark, vice president of Workforce Solutions</p> <p>Chris Coutts, vice president of communications and planning; Fauquier campus provost</p> <p>Anne Davis, vice president of academic and student affairs</p> <p>Ashley Hansen, executive assistant to the president</p> <p>Liv Heggoy, associate vice president of development; executive director of Laurel Ridge Educational Foundation</p> <p>Cory Thompson, vice president of financial and administrative services</p>																						
<b>Approval of Minutes No. 262</b>	On a motion made by James Wells, seconded by Michael Lake, Minutes No. 262 were unanimously approved.																						

<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>	
<p><b>Introduction of new College Board member representing Page County, Brian Sours</b> (Information Item)</p>	<p>Board Chair Mike Wenger introduced and welcomed new College Board member, Brian Sours, representing Page County. Mr. Sours was appointed to a one-year unexpired term and will be eligible for reappointment to his first four-year term beginning July 2024.</p> <p>This was an information item and required no further action.</p>
<p><b>Laurel Ridge Mission Statement Review</b> (Information Item)</p>	<p>Chris Coutts, vice president of communications and planning, reviewed with board members that the local college board is periodically asked to review the college’s mission statement per college policy (Attachment No. 1).</p> <p>The current mission statement was adopted in 2021 as part of the Engage 2027 Strategic Plan and reads – “Our mission is to provide a positive, caring and dynamic learning environment that inspires student success, values diversity and promotes community vitality.”</p> <p>The President’s Advisory Team sought feedback on the mission statement from various college constituency groups and discussed the viability of the statement at its April 26, 2023 meeting. The President’s Advisory Team recommends no action or changes to the mission statement at this time. The mission statement will likely be reviewed again in 2024, which will mark the end of the first three years of the current strategic plan.</p> <p>The college’s accrediting body, SACSCOC, requires a clearly defined, comprehensive, and published mission specific to the institution and appropriate for higher education.</p> <p>This was an information item and required no further action.</p> <p>(Attachment No. 1; 2 pages)</p>
<p><b>Recommendation to approve Local Funds Budget FY 23-24</b> (Action Item)</p>	<p>Cory Thompson, vice president of financial and administrative services, recommended the Local Funds Budget FY 23-24 for approval. Board members reviewed the FY 23-24 proposed Local Funds Budget outline (Attachment No. 2).</p> <p>Local funds are comprised of revenues received from student activity and parking fees and auxiliary enterprises. The College Board has authority over the use of the college’s local funds.</p> <p>On a motion made by Ed Daley, seconded by Brad Hodgson, the recommendation was unanimously approved.</p> <p>(Attachment No. 2; 1 page)</p>

<p><b>Recommendation to approve <i>College Board Representative to the Laurel Ridge Educational Foundation Board AY 23-24, Ed Daley (Warren County)</i></b> (Action Item)</p>	<p>Board Chair Mike Wenger recommended the nomination of Ed Daley, representing Warren County, to serve as the College Board Representative to the Laurel Ridge Educational Foundation Board for AY 2023-24.</p> <p>This is a one-year term and can be extended for an additional year per the Laurel Ridge College Board Bylaws.</p> <p>On a motion made by Brad Hodgson, seconded by Maryam Tabatabai, the recommendation was unanimously approved.</p> <p>Board Vice Chair Mike Wenger extended gratitude to Brad Hodgson for his dedicated service to the College Board as the Laurel Ridge Educational Foundation representative for 2021-23.</p>
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**REPORT OF THE COLLEGE BOARD CHAIR**

College Board Chair Mike Wenger recognized outgoing vice president of academic and student affairs, Anne Davis, for her service to the college and significant contributions to overall student success and organizational gains throughout the past three years.

Chair Wenger encouraged board members to continue to communicate the numerous opportunities offered by Laurel Ridge that are available to individuals in our communities. He thanked college members for thoroughly preparing board members with college related information to adequately prepare them to advocate for the organization within their localities.

**REPORT OF THE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION BOARD REPRESENTATIVE**

Brad Hodgson, Educational Foundation Board Representative, reported on the following:

- The Laurel Ridge Educational Foundation has been approached by the Virginia State Police concerning utilization of Foundation owned property at the Middletown campus to construct a future barrack – similar to a partnership implemented at the Fauquier campus several years prior. The Foundation and college will jointly explore this request.
- The Catlett property located in Fauquier County gifted to the Foundation is currently listed for sale, but has seen minimal interest. The Foundation will focus on strategies to gain movement on a sale.

**REPORTS OF THE COLLEGE**

(Attachment No. 3; 8 pages)

**IMPORTANT DATES**

Date	Activity	Time	Location
Thursday, September 7, 2023	<b>College Board meeting</b>	12:00 p.m.; lunch served at 11:30 a.m.	Middletown Campus

Friday, September 29, 2023	<b>Laurel Ridge All College Day</b>	8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Middletown Campus, Corron Community Development Center, Carl & Emily Thompson Conference Center
Thursday, November 9, 2023	<b>College Board meeting</b>	12:00 p.m.; <i>lunch served at 11:30 a.m.</i>	Middletown Campus

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Michael Lake, seconded by Ed Daley, Board Chair Mike Wenger declared the meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

**APPROVED BY:**





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Kimberly P. Blosser  
 President, Laurel Ridge Community College;  
 Secretary, Laurel Ridge Community College Board

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Michael S Wenger  
 Chair, Laurel Ridge Community College Board

Copy + Attachments to: All College Board Members and College Senior Leadership members.

Copy of Approved MINUTES NO. 262 (April 6, 2023) filed with Dr. David Doré, Chancellor, Virginia Community College System.

**MISSION STATEMENT REVIEW  
Policy Statement**

In accordance with VCCS Policy 2.9 D.C.h and the SACSCOC Standard 4.2.a:

Laurel Ridge Community College (the College) operates under the governance of the VCCS and therefore adheres to the VCCS mission, with modifications to meet the specific needs and goals of the Laurel Ridge service region. The College mission statement is developed by the College community, reviewed by the College's shared governance process, and approved by the local College Board. Upon approval of the local College Board, the mission statement is approved by the VCCS Chancellor. As part of the College's strategic planning, the mission statement is periodically reviewed and updated.

**1. Definitions**

*College Community:* Laurel Ridge Community College students, employees, and board members.

**2. Procedures**

- i. The Laurel Ridge mission statement is developed by the College community, reviewed by the College's shared governance process, and approved by the local College Board.
- ii. Upon approval of the local College Board, the mission statement is approved by the VCCS Chancellor.
- iii. The mission statement is periodically reviewed and updated at a minimum of every five years.
- iv. The mission statement is consistently communicated to constituents on the College website, in the College's catalog and student handbook, and in various locations on all campuses, centers, and off-site centers.

**3. Responsible Office**

Authority for interpretation of this policy rests with the College President.

**4. Other Information**

SACSCOC Standard 4.2.a states: "The governing board ensures the regular review of the institution's mission."

VCCS Policy 2.9 D.C.h states:

The college board shall participate, with the college president, the Chancellor and the State Board, in the development and evaluation of a program of community college education of high quality in accordance with procedures adopted by the State Board. In that context, a college statement of purpose shall be developed by the college community. It shall be approved by the college board and reviewed and approved by the Chancellor on behalf of the State Board. This statement of purpose shall tailor the VCCS Mission Statement to the particular needs and circumstances of the college.

The Vice President of Communications & Planning edited this policy in January 2023 to reflect the College's name change and to include reference to SACSCOC Standard 4.2.a.

***Document History:***

*Approved: President John Sygielski, February 2007*

*Revised: President Cheryl Thompson-Stacy, November 2017*

*Edited: VP CAP Chris Coutts, January 2023*

**Laurel Ridge Community College  
Local Funds Budget Request  
Fiscal Year 2023-24**

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Approved Budget Fiscal Year 2022-2023</b>	<b>Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 2023-2024</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Parking Fees	315,100	315,000	(100)
Student Activity Fee	305,000	215,000	(90,000)
Bookstore	85,000	77,500	(7,500)
Other (Copiers, Vending, Dining)	525	80	(445)
Interest	915	36,617	35,702
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 706,540</b>	<b>\$ 644,197</b>	<b>\$ (62,343)</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
Parking Maintenance & Repairs	100,000	150,000	50,000
Facility Improvements	1,075,000	-	(1,075,000)
Student Activities	100,000	100,000	-
Student Union	450,000	450,000	-
Other	248,515	18,335	(230,180)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,973,515</b>	<b>\$ 718,335</b>	<b>\$ (1,255,180)</b>
<b>Budgeted Local Reserve +/-</b>	<b>\$ (1,266,975)</b>	<b>\$ (74,138)</b>	<b>\$ 1,192,837</b>

## Reports of the College

Laurel Ridge Community College Board Meeting No. 263

May 31, 2023

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**President, Kim Blosser**

### Lab School

- Laurel Ridge is continuing to partner with Germanna Community College, Rappahannock, Madison, Orange, and Culpeper County Schools, and James Madison University to develop a Lab School focused on Teacher Education.
- The lab school will be for juniors and seniors in a modified, hybrid Governor's School model. Students will earn their associate degree in education prior to high school graduation and then transfer to a 4-year university to complete the elementary education bachelor's degree. Students will have to commit to working for their public school division for 2 years post-graduation.
- Students will travel to Laurel Ridge for classes utilizing the same buses and schedule as the Mountain Vista Governor's School (for public schools who are part of MVGS; other schools will provide transportation).
- President Blosser held a meeting with all superintendents to gauge interest from all school divisions. At this time, we anticipate having two lab school sites, one at Fauquier and one at Middletown.
- The final application will be submitted by the end of July 2023.
- It is anticipated that our lab school sites will begin in Fall 2025.

### State Budget

- We anticipate having any amendments to the State Budget approved by July 1st.
- Currently, the College is building the FY24 budget based on the VCCS funding allocation. In the funding model, 80% of funding is based on enrollment and 20% is based on performance. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row – Laurel Ridge is #1 in the VCCS in performance funding metrics!!!!
- The State Board will meet in July to make a final decision regarding any tuition increase, based on the results of actions taken by the legislature.

### President's Retreat

- Our new chancellor, Dr. Doré, will be holding a President's Retreat on June 1-2. The focus will be on strategic planning and how to address the need for additional funding to support career and technical education programs.

### College Updates

- President Blosser will hold two President's Virtual Open Forums this summer: June 29 at 2:00pm and August 17 at 10:00am.
- Dr. Caroline Wood will be serving as Interim VP of Academic and Student Affairs beginning July 1 until a permanent replacement is hired. Recruitment for the VP position will begin in August.



**Workforce Solutions, Jeanian Clark, vice president of Workforce Solutions**

Workforce Solutions Secures Two Innovation Grants for Trades and Construction Programs

- Awarded \$320,000 in G3 Innovation Funding for the Fauquier Trades Building
  - Grant funds will be used to outfit the furniture, fixtures, and instructional equipment in the new 8,000-square-foot Center for Skilled Trades offering Electrical, HVAC, Plumbing, HEO, Welding, and Carpentry Programs.
- Laurel Ridge Workforce Solutions Partners with Germanna and Wins Consortium Grant
  - GCC and Laurel Ridge will partner to expand the Heavy Equipment Operator program scope and scale. Laurel Ridge Workforce will receive \$415,000 to add flexibility and additional capabilities to the program in new “live” equipment purchases, such as backhoe loaders and mini excavators. The college will purchase a truck, trailer, and mobile simulator lab to be able to deliver programs to more populations in the service region.

Workforce Adds New IT Credential in CompTIA Project+ to the FastForward and G3 Short -Term Career Training Program Line Up

Workforce Solution students received approval in March from the State Board for Community Colleges to add a new IT credential to the menu of options for IT professionals. The CompTIA Project+ program is a comprehensive review of foundational project management skills and industry best practices merged with Laurel Ridge’s comprehensive exam preparation for the Project+ exam. CompTIA Project+ is ideal for IT professionals who need to manage smaller, less complex projects as part of their other job duties, but still have foundational project management skills. Project+ is more versatile than other certifications because it covers essential project management concepts beyond the scope of just one methodology or framework.

**Communications and Planning; Fauquier Campus; Chris Coutts, vice president of communications and planning, Fauquier campus provost**

Commencement 2023

- Our CAP team played an integral role in organizing a very successful Commencement 2023. Special thanks to Director of Public Relations Brandy Boies for her work in managing the event.
- All Commencement photos are available at [laurelridge.edu/commencement](http://laurelridge.edu/commencement). You can view the photo gallery and watch a video of the ceremony on this page.

Grants

- Due to a positive pricing change with LAPSIM ST (virtual reality simulation training for laparoscopic surgeries), we increased our Congressionally Directed Spending Request to \$304,700 so that we could attempt to secure the equipment for both Fauquier and Middletown campuses (versus just one campus). Our request has been forwarded from Senators Kaine and Warner to Appropriations for their review.
- We were awarded \$48,000 from the Department of Criminal Justice Services for law enforcement ATV, weaponry, and storage at Middletown.
- We were awarded \$25,000 from PATH Flexible Funding for TimelyCare at Fauquier.

- We submitted a grant to the National Endowment for the Humanities for \$114,271.20 for Speakers Series: Expanding Pathways to the Humanities.
- We submitted a request to the Loeb Foundation for \$50,000 for the “Building the Future Fund” in partnership with the Laurel Ridge Educational Foundation.
- We submitted a proposal to the Community Foundation of the Northern Shenandoah Valley for \$5,000 (\$2,500 for Selah Theatre performance costs and \$2,500 for a feasibility study related to establishing a community video archive).
- We submitted an Ellucian grant for student scholarships (no specific amount is requested – the award amount is determined by the grantor).
- Unfortunately, grant requests to Lowe’s for skilled trades instructors and United Way for student internet connectivity were declined due to heavy competition and limited funding.

#### Fauquier Campus

- At Fauquier, enrollment for the summer semester up 7% compared to last summer (2022). At this time enrollment for fall is up 46% compared to this point-in-time last year. While we expect this percentage to decline as we get closer to the start of the semester, we are anticipating continued enrollment increases next year.
- The first floor classroom wing in Wolk is wrapping up and looking great! We are currently waiting for the Temporary Occupancy Permit. Student Success and Campus Police areas are essentially complete. Student Success staff have begun to move back into their office spaces and Campus Police are doing the same. The new Bookstore is awaiting inspection. Once inspection is complete, the Bookstore will begin its move. Work will then begin on the new MVGS space.
- Work continues on the Trades Building – the current completion 6/2 date needs to be pushed out. We are waiting on a new completion date. In preparation of the move, B&G and IT are in preliminary stages of removing furniture and equipment from Vint Hill.
- CTSI Hyflex work continues in both Hazel and Wolk. IT is working diligently to keep them on track. We do not have a completion date.
- Astra Scheduler is now the main platform that the Event Schedulers (Sara Yervey and Brandy Boies) are using to schedule events campus wide. Staff still use the Internal Room Reservation Request Forms found on the Laurel Ridge website to request spaces. The Event Scheduler is working with IT to address challenges involving college-wide implementation. Robin will be phased out.

#### **Academic and Student Affairs, Anne Davis, vice president of academic and student affairs**

##### Academic Accomplishments

- NASA RockOn Program. Laurel Ridge Community College has been selected to participate in the RockOn 2023 workshop, held at NASA’s Wallops Flight Facility, located on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. The amount of interest this year was overwhelming. Over 40 applications were received from across the country! The RockOn 2023 workshop will run from Friday, June 16, 2023, to Wednesday, June 21, 2023, and will culminate with the RockOn sounding rocket launch on Thursday, June 22, 2023. (In the event of inclement weather or a launch delay, the back-up launch date is June 23, 2023.)
- Laurel Ridge was selected as 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE for AUVSI XCELLENCE Award. The AUVSI XCELLENCE Awards honor individuals and organizations that are innovators in the uncrewed systems industry, with a demonstrated commitment to advancing autonomy, leading and promoting

- safe adoption of uncrewed systems, and developing programs that use these technologies to save lives and improve society.
- Laurel Ridge's drone program was one of 5 finalists in the Workforce Development category. The award was based on community outreach, being a CTI, the two drone programs, grants received, research with VT, pathways from K12 to Workforce, work with industry, and other educational institutions and other drone non-profits. While the award recognizes Craig Santicola and Melissa Stange, it is a college honor. Winners were announced at AUVSI XPONENTIAL 2023 on May 8-11 at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver, CO. Dr. Stange was present to receive the award.
  - The other finalists this year in the workforce development category were: Drone Up with Richard Bland College, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Fullerton College, and the National Robotics Education Foundation.
  - The Drones Program was also recognized in a Jan 2023 whitepaper by the Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation on "Virginia's Advanced Air Mobility Future." Dr. Santicola presented at Shenandoah University on the college's role in the development of Advanced Air Mobility in the region. This was in connection with the Winchester Airport's groundbreaking event.
  - Dr. Santicola and Dr. Stange presented a tour to the new Chancellor and showcased our Cybersecurity Lab and our sUAS program. Had a student show Dr. Dore how to fly a drone. Shared our new programs - Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning, Immersive Technology - and he was surprised and impressed stating these are just the type of forward thinking programs that Virginia needs.
  - Cybersecurity Students. On Feb 24th and Feb 25th the college's cybersecurity team of 8 students traveled to Virginia Military Institute to participate in the 6th Annual Commonwealth Cyber Fusion Capture the Flag Competition. They earned 2nd place in the commonwealth in the community college category, only missing 1st place by 8 points. The team was coached by Full-time faculty member Darrell Andrews and adjunct faculty member Mark Sunderlin.
  - Surg Tech Event. The college hosted the state assembly of surgical technologists at the Barkman Event Center in Hazel Hall. There were over 100 participants from all over the state (and several people from other states) for the meeting. There were presentations, equipment demos, and tours of the surgical technology suite.
  - Alicia Bare and Lili Viau were enrolled in Ian Hare's Biology and Microbiology classes in Spring 2023 semester. They were accepted to participate in the "NSF REU: Biological Data Science for Community College Students" summer research program. They will be funded by the National Science Foundation and received lodging to perform 10 weeks of laboratory research under the guidance of a faculty member at JMU. This program is designed to provide research experience to community college students who, due to the transfer process, have less time than students who did not attend community college to gain such experience. Alicia will be studying mechanisms of nuclear protein misfolding responsible for the development of Alzheimer's Disease, and Lili will be researching quantitative cell-substrate mechanobiology, investigating how cells respond to their tissue microenvironments following external stimuli.

- The Early College office recently honored DE students receiving credentials and degrees at multiple awards ceremonies and commencement. 257 students were recognized as Governor's Scholars, having earned a certificate or degree concurrent with high school graduation. We are currently working to enroll high school students in the Trades, EMT, Drones, and Robotics Academies. 26 local educators have continued on towards the Computer Science Generalist Certificate and are enrolled in two CSC courses for the summer.

#### ASA Faculty/Staff Accomplishments

- The English Department's Ruth Holmes successfully defended her dissertation in March. Dr. Holmes now has her PhD in English from ODU.
- Business faculty member Rachel Dodson defended her dissertation and is graduating from Walden University with her Ph.D.
- Ann Simpson, biology professor, successfully completed her doctoral program in Community College Leadership from ODU.
- Assistant Professor of Sociology and Human Services Larry Friedenbergs has accepted an invitation to attend SafeTalk Training for Trainers on May 24-May 25.
- English Professor Jessi Lewis, in concert with the Peter Bullough Foundation, has brought professional writers to Laurel Ridge Community College to speak to faculty and ENG 112 students about Writing in the Field. Jessi also had a short story accepted into the 2023 Best Mystery Stories of the Year Anthology, which has been edited by Amor Towles.
- Associate Vice President of Student Services and Academic Support Dr. Caroline Wood spoke on a United Way panel about ALICE and our students as the United Way release the newest ALICE Report
- Librarian Kerry Kilpatrick will be presenting on our DEI work at the Library Peer Conference Serving Up DEI: Demonstrating Library Value in Support of College Initiatives:
  - Academic libraries can often be overlooked by other divisions, but our services and resources offer unique versatility in supporting the growing push for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives under Opportunity 2027. At Laurel Ridge, we've channeled these assets into projects that have benefitted the whole institution, including a minority-owned business guide, a search committee resource site and empathy-centered book club. We'll share our successes - and our struggles - in raising the library profile while collaborating campus-wide to enhance DEI.
- John Owens will be presenting on our archival work at the Library & Learning Resources Regional Peer Group Meeting. The session will be ""Presenting Your Digital Archives"", where John will briefly show how the Laurel Ridge Library has utilized Libguides and Flickr to make college archival materials digitally available.

#### Center for Excellence and Innovation in Teaching & Learning (CEITL)

- Professor Naomi Simpson will transition from professor of communication to Director, CEITL May 25th.
- Faculty Fellows program will relaunch with a cohort of nine faculty and staff participating in a 4-day Summer Learning Academy June 5 – June 8, 2023 and a commitment to facilitate faculty professional development with peer Fellows during the academic year 2023-24.

### Student Services

- Freshman Focus. To be in alignment with VCCS onboarding expectations, reducing time between application and enrollment and to strengthen our collaborations with our High School Career Coaches, this spring the enrollment team has introduced the Freshman Focus Program. Incoming freshmen are receiving a pre-planned schedule. Students involved in our Freshman Focus Program will be enrolled in their first 5 classes prior to orientation. At orientation they will be prompted to book their required new student advising appointment. At the advising appointment, the advisor will review the students' courses and assist them in making any necessary adjustments to credit load, course mode, etc. Kudos to the outreach, enrollment, and advising teams for operationalizing this plan! Thus far, over 400 students so far have been registered via Freshman Focus.
- Newly Renovated Veterans Center at Middletown. The renovation to the veteran's center in Cornerstone Hall is complete. The veteran's advisors now have private office spaces to meet with students and guide them in the enrollment process.
- Veteran's Services Event. Representative Jennifer Wexton and representatives from Veteran's Services hosted an informational session about PACT Act programs for toxic-exposed veterans at Fauquier Campus on Friday, March 31st. Veterans were also able to be evaluated for benefits at the event.
- Student Engagement honored our student leaders at 2 ceremonies one at Middletown and one at Fauquier. Our students were engaged and enthusiastic about the ceremonies
- Student Services hosted TRIO Picnic at the Student Union Building with games, smores, and dinner. TRIO students invited their families to join them in the celebration

### New Horizons Presentations

The VCCS annual New Horizons Conference was held in Roanoke March 28-31<sup>st</sup>. The following faculty and staff had conference sessions selected:

- Ann Simpson, Building Classroom Community Using the Pecha Kucha Method Through High Impact Active Learning
- Rachel Dodson, Transitioning to Shorter Academic Terms
- Anne Davis, VCCS Leadership Academy – Power and Influence and Transformative Leadership
- Zach Peterman, Implementing Navigators – Lesson Learned in the First Year
- Helen Fleming & Polly Nesselrodt, Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI) and *A Culture of Care: The Original BFFs*

**Development; Laurel Ridge Foundation;** Liv Heggoy, associate vice president of development and executive director of the Laurel Ridge Foundation

- Thank you to the College Board members who were able to attend our annual Appreciation Luncheon on Friday, April 14. It was an inspiring day with heartfelt speeches from two students – Cooper Varela (cybersecurity) and Ravin Smallwood (nursing). Steve and Reta Rodgers were recognized as the recipients of the Leadership in Philanthropy Award. Sarah Bell Williams received the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award.

- We have received a \$20,000 bequest from an alumni to support scholarships for engineering students.
- Foundation board member Kellie Post and her husband Mike Post are hosting a fundraiser for the Foundation on Saturday, October 7 at their home in Warrenton from 5:00 – 7:00. Tickets are \$150. Kellie is a retired executive at Shirley Contracting Company, and Mike is the CEO.
- After an extensive RFP process, the Foundation has selected Brown Advisory for investment management services.
- The Skilled Trades Building at the Fauquier Campus is owned by the Foundation and will be leased to the college – similar to the Student Union at the Middletown Campus and the Luray-Page County Center. Updates on this project have been reported in other sections. We will have an event to celebrate the grand opening later this fall (TBD).
- We are working with the Financial Aid Office to award scholarships for 2023-2024. Previous recipients of scholarships include this year’s Outstanding Graduate for the Middletown Campus (Pamela Neff), Outstanding Graduate for the Fauquier Campus (Teresa Akyaa), and the commencement speaker on Friday (Celia Cooley).

**Financial and Administrative Services**, Cory Thompson, vice president of financial and administrative services

#### Finance

- The Business Office began taking Fall 2023 payments on May 12, 2023. Communication with students through various channels is ongoing.
- Finance received the preliminary resource distribution model from the System Office, based on estimated Education & General (E&G) general fund (GF) distributions and is developing revenue projects for the Fiscal Year 2024 budget. The FY 2024 Preliminary Model distributes \$415.1 million in E&G general fund appropriation to support Virginia’s 23 community colleges. Non-general fund revenue projections are being developed with presumptions that the State Board may approve tuition increases up to 5%; the State Board intends to act on tuition (and any fee requests) at its July meeting.

#### Information Technology

- The IT department successfully redirected the domain name LFCC.edu to laurelridge.edu.
- IT staff collaborated with the VCCS system office to implement its new IT support ticketing system through a system called “Team Dynamix”
- A hardware replacement initiative at the Health Professions building is ongoing with the goal of replacing all projectors and computers to improve the faculty, staff, and student learning environment.
- The technology platform that supports emergency communication at the college is being upgraded and deployed through a mass notification system called Alertus. The system provides functionality to send one-touch notifications to college computer screens, digital displays, phone systems, and cell phones (SMS).
- In its continued effort to maintain and test the security of the college’s computer network and email systems, the IT staff:

- successfully completed an internal Phishing campaign. This tested the staff's staff ability to recognize and report malicious emails.
  - This was followed by information security training so that staff could improve their ability to recognize malicious emails.
  - implemented Tenable Vulnerability Software that scans the network for vulnerabilities and malicious software.
- A new full-time helpdesk position was filled at the Middletown Campus.
- IT staff were instrumental in supporting the College's commencement activities, including recording and streaming graduation. Over 140 people watch the live feed.
- IT staff from the RADS unit have successfully transferred to the IT department, welcome Eric Simons and Jeremiah Shifflett to the IT leadership team.

#### Police & Emergency Management

- Campus Police successfully hired part time police officers at Fauquier and Middletown Campus. Laurel Ridge police relies heavily on the support of its part-time officers, many of whom are retired officers or officers that also work full-time police jobs in surrounding jurisdictions.
- A Middletown Police Sergeant was hired with a start date of June 10, 2023.
- Police provided critical traffic and safety support for the Commencement 2023 events held on campus. The celebrations were completed without incident.
- An all-electric utility vehicle was purchased with grant funds and provides much-needed off-road-vehicle functionality for the college's officers.

#### Facilities Planning

- Construction for the major renovations at the Fauquier Campus's Wolk building were completed ahead of schedule. Work to finish IT connections and install furniture is ongoing through May. The newly renovated classrooms and labs will be ready for Fall classes.
- Renovations of the Police and Student Success spaces in the Wolk building at Fauquier are complete. Staff are moving back into their renovated spaces.
- Bookstore renovations at the Wolk building are underway. Paint and flooring work is ongoing with the bookstore expected to move into their new space in June. Work to renovate the existing bookstore space will begin once the space is vacated.
- Work on the FY23 physical inventory is ongoing.
- Construction on the Fauquier Trades Building is ongoing. Utility installations by Columbia Gas and Dominion Energy are scheduled with work expected to be completed in time to obtain building occupancy before the end of June.
- The Middletown Fitness Center is offering classes during the summer with a focus on employees and meeting them where they are with walks around campus and chair yoga.